

JACK ANDERSON GOOD MORNING AMERICA SHOW 7 DECEMBER 1981

Good morning Joan. A renegade ex-CIA agent has been named as the man who has been training Lybian Dictator Muammar Qadhafi's assassination squads. This fugitive agent is Edwin P. Wilson. Now I've talked to him at his hide-a-way on the Lybian seacoast. He stands at the center of high international drama. Lybian death squads are reported to be gunning for President Reagan. Other high American officials are also allegedly on Qadhafi's hit list including Secretary of State Alexander Haig, Secretary of Defense Casper Wineberger. American Ambassadors overseas are also in danger. Those of Jewish descent are reported to be the likliest targets. Now I asked Wilson if he had trained the assassins who have reportedly set their sights on President Reagan. Here's what he told me: "Mr. Anderson, I would categorically deny - as I said before to the press, I wouldn't know a terrorist if I saw one and I know nothing about the five terrorists that you say in the n---that are going to the United States. I seriously doubt that this is in fact, eh, the truth. I believe that this is probably some sort of a disinformation operation by some country that's not too happy with Lybia; this could be any country ----- (unintelligible) Egypt, Israel, whatever. But I deny it and I further deny - and I am willing, sir, to take a lie detector test by your people indicating that ah, that and you can ask me these same questions and I will deny on a lie detector and I will be

proved right that I had nothing to do with this and I have never trained a terrorist in Lybia". Wilson did admit that he had trained Lybian soldiers but insisted it was no more than basic training. He said that five years ago he went to Lybia with three or four other men to teach low level Lybian soldiers how to set up and defuse explosives. Now I asked whether the training is still going on. Wilson said he was still running a modest operation. He now has seven Americans helping him with the training. He confided to me that in the five years he has been in Lybia, fifty or sixty different people have worked for him. If you count mechanics and technicians that figure soars, he said, to 150. He said most of the trainees stay for a year and then leave. But Wilson vigorously denied that the Americans have been training assassins or terrorists, so I asked about Eugene Tafoya, the former Green Beret who was convicted of shooting a Lybian exile leader in Colorado. Tafoya flew to Colorado from a farm that Wilson owns. Well, Wilson admitted he knew Tafoya. He said he was invited to work for him by another former Green Beret member, but later he received reports that Tafoya was a little weird, so he fired him and then let him stay at his farm in England. I also questioned Wilson about Joseph McElroy who bought a gun in Pennsylvania that later turned up in the possession of two Lybian assassins. Wilson said that he couldn't remember who McElroy was; that he was sure that he was brought to Lybia by Wilson's former partner, Frank Terpil. Finally, I asked Wilson if he wanted to come home. He said he did but wanted to wait for all the publicity to die down. David.